

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21, 22 and 24-28 have been examined. Claims 10, 19 and 21 have been amended. Claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled. New claim 29 has been added. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 18, 22 and 25 and the indicated allowability of claims 26-28. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 21 has been objected to for being substantially similar to claim 17. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 18, thereby overcoming this objection.

Also, claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,703,570 to Gorday et al. ("Gorday") in view of US Patent No. 5,974,300 to LaPorta et al. ("LaPorta"). Although Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons cited in the previous Amendment, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27 which was indicated to be allowable. Hence, the § 103 rejection of independent claim 10 is rendered moot. Claims 11, 13, 15 and 17 depend from claim 10 and are also in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 19 and 21 have been amended to depend from claim 18 which has been allowed. Hence, these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorday in view of LaPorta and further in view of US Patent No. 5,258,751 to DeLuca ("DeLuca"). Claim 24 depends from claim 10, which is distinguishable and in condition for allowance as previously recited. Hence, this rejection is rendered moot.

Added Claim

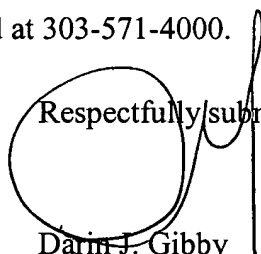
New claim 29 has been added to rewrite dependent claim 26 in independent form. Since claim 26 was indicated to contain patentable subject matter, new claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


Darin J. Gibby
Reg. No. 38,464

Date: September 20, 2005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
DJG/jln
60590845 v1